

### Ambitious Men

#### *Generals Take Control*

- 1500s, three strong daimyo worked to take control of Japan
- Oda Nobunaga, first to arm soldiers with guns, defeated opponents easily
- By death in 1582, controlled half of Japan
- Toyotomi Hideyoshi, Oda's greatest general, continued efforts; by 1590, controlled most of Japan

#### *Tokugawa Ieyasu*

- 1600, **Tokugawa Ieyasu** won decisive battle
- Gained complete control of all Japan
- 1603, emperor made Tokugawa shogun
- Event began the Tokugawa Shogunate

[< Back](#)[Next >](#)[Preview 🏠](#)[Main 🏠](#)

## Find the Main Idea

What features defined Japan's feudal warrior society?

**Answer(s):** Samurai gave military service in exchange for property or payment; shoguns ruled in the name of the emperor; daimyo were powerful warlords.

< Back

Next >

Preview 🏠

Main 🏠

### The Tokugawa Shogunate

#### ***Strong Central Government***

- Tokugawa Ieyasu established capital at quiet fishing village, Edo, now Tokyo
- Established strong central government
- Tokugawa shoguns brought about period of relative unity, peace, stability

#### ***Tokugawa Rule***

- Tokugawa shoguns closely controlled daimyo, who still held local level power
- To keep loyal, shoguns required daimyo to live in Edo periodically, leave families there year-round as “hostages”
- Forced daimyo to maintain two residences; attempt to preclude from rebelling

#### ***Prosperity***

- Stability, peace of Tokugawa rule brought prosperity to Japan
- Agricultural production rose, population and cities grew
- Economic activity increased
- New roads linked main cities, castle towns, improving trade

[< Back](#)[Next >](#)[Preview 🏠](#)[Main 🏠](#)



### Rigid Feudal System

#### *Top of Society*

- Under Tokugawa rule, Japan's strict feudal system more rigid
- At top of society, emperor
- Only a figurehead

#### *Shogun, Daimyo*

- Next was shogun, held real power as military ruler
- Below shogun, daimyo—owed shogun loyalty

#### *Ruling Warrior Class*

- Under daimyo, samurai who served them
- Emperor, shogun, daimyo, samurai made up ruling warrior class

#### *Three Lower Classes*

- Below ruling warrior class were three classes
- Peasants, artisans, merchants

[< Back](#)[Next >](#)[Preview 🏠](#)[Main 🏠](#)

### Lower Classes

#### ***Rules***

- Members of lower classes could not rise in social status
- Could not serve in military or government, or hold government positions that might challenge power of warrior class

#### ***Peasants***

- Peasants made up vast majority—about 80 percent—of Japan's population
- Forbidden to do anything but farming
- Supported selves by growing rice, other crops on daimyo, samurai estates

#### ***Honor and Some Status***

- In Japan, farming considered honorable trade
- Peasants enjoyed relatively high status, just below samurai
- However, peasants paid most of taxes, led hard lives

[< Back](#)[Next >](#)[Preview 🏠](#)[Main 🏠](#)

### Artisans and Merchants

- Below peasants were artisans
- Artisans often lived in castle towns; made goods like armor, swords
- Merchants at bottom of society
- Not honored because did not produce anything
- Merchants often grew wealthy
- Could use wealth to improve social position

#### ***Women***

- During Tokugawa period, women's status gradually declined
- Many led restricted lives
- Had to obey male head of household absolutely
- Even samurai class women lost many rights, freedoms

#### ***Male Samurai***

- Role of male samurai changed
- Peace put many out of work
- Not allowed to engage in trade
- Many ronin—masterless samurai—fell on hard times
- Some became farmers, others warriors for hire, still others bandits

[< Back](#)[Next >](#)[Preview 🏠](#)[Main 🏠](#)



### Relations with the West

The prosperity of the Tokugawa Period went hand in hand with Japan's increasing contact with Europeans.

Initially the Japanese welcomed European traders and missionaries and the new ideas, products and technologies that they brought.

#### *Changes*

- Trade with Europe boosted Japan's economy
- Christian missionaries changed Japanese society
- Many Japanese became Christian; soon samurai could be heard chanting Christian prayers in battle

#### *Period of Isolation*

- Over time Tokugawa shoguns grew concerned with spread of Christianity; began to persecute Christians, kill missionaries
- Also began to restrict foreign trade, travel
- Banned building large ships

By 1650, Japan had shut its doors to all Europeans except the Dutch. Japan continued this policy for more than 200 years.

[< Back](#)[Next >](#)[Preview 🏠](#)[Main 🏠](#)

### Feudal Culture

Japan's growing cities became centers of culture during the feudal period.

#### *Art and Literature*

- In art, colorful woodblock prints called Ukiyo-e, “pictures of the floating world,” became popular
- In literature, realistic stories became popular, as well as form of poetry called **haiku**
- Three lines with 17 syllables; many haiku deal with themes of nature, harmony

#### *Theater*

- In theater, Noh drama developed, 1300s
- Slow-moving Noh plays told stories through use of masks, stylized dance, music
- 1600s, new type of theatre with more action, plot, humor —**kabuki**
- Women initially performed kabuki, but later banned and replaced by men

[< Back](#)[Next >](#)[Preview 🏠](#)[Main 🏠](#)



## Summarize

What changes did Tokugawa rulers impose on Japanese society?

**Answer(s):** They required daimyos to live in Edo periodically and make expensive processions, some family members were kept hostage in Edo, a strict social structure was maintained, and they isolated Japan from outsiders.

< Back

Next >

Preview 🏠

Main 🏠